

from the Fredal, Tarsburger and Rothmann passes, the attacking forces have been in the northern Rumanian and Walachian Carpathians.

After the failure of their offensive in the Fredal area the Rumanians were compelled to confine themselves to the defensive, but the demands of even this form of warfare are now almost too much to be supplied by the forces at their command. The Rumanian lines are being continuously drawn back in the center, near Proseid and Kimpolung and south of Rothenthurn pass.

They are endeavoring to offset this menace by attacks in nearby sectors of the front. At the beginning of the attacks for this purpose were launched to the west of the principal passes and in the vicinity of the hard pressed center, as in the Boosa Valley, to the east of the center, and in the Jiu Valley to the west.

Guerrilla Warfare Only.

In the former valley local conditions caused the fighting to be confined to guerrilla warfare, while in the Jiu Valley the Germans, who at the beginning confined themselves to the defensive, have since November 10 been on the offensive, their advance having been crowned on November 14 by the capture of the village of Buzesti, in the hill region.

Under the extension of the German pressure the Rumanian offensive continued to fall away toward the flanks. This is seen in the result of the recently reported engagements near Orsova on November 12 and 13, during which the troops of Archduke Charles Francis made 1,600 prisoners, as well as in the extremely costly attacks of the Rumanians in the Orsova Valley on November 13 and 14, which were made only in consequence of the pressure against the principal passes.

Indirectly connected with this are the engagements near Poly-Krasnolesna, on the Narayuvka, in Galicia, where the Rumanians attempted in vain to keep the south of the Carpathians tied up in an effort to relieve Rumania.

Russian Forces Crippled.

The armies of Gen. Brusiloff and his lieutenants, in consequence of the exhaustion of their human material and their lack of ammunition and war machinery, which is every day becoming more apparent, are no longer capable of any action on a large scale.

As to the western front, the notable concentration of British artillery prior to the attack along the Ancre on November 13 is held by the Overseas News Agency review of the fighting to indicate an attempt on the largest scale to break through the German lines.

More than 200 batteries showed the German trenches with steel," says the review. "In and about Hebuterne, further to the west and also to the south of that village, the British had concentrated cannon of all calibers which were placed in dexterously constructed nests. More artillery was placed in masses east and south of the village, and between Englebemmer and Meuzel, and likewise near Postieres and Courcellette.

Several hours of continuous, methodical and destructive fire with shells and gas grenades failed to shake the German infantry in either the sector south of Grandcourt or between Hebuterne and the road from Serre to Mouilly.

First Line Is Held.

At these points the German first line positions were nearly everywhere maintained. It was only in the thrust at the center that the British succeeded in crossing the first line of the Germans, because of their extensive blasting operations which had destroyed the greater part of Beaumont and its defensive installations. The British, after the hardest sort of fighting, also succeeded in capturing Beaumont, but their attempts to advance further failed in the face of the tenacious German defense of their position.

The most important object of the attacks—the heights of Serre—could not be taken. The village of Serre itself was temporarily occupied by the British, but was recaptured by the Germans in a counter attack.

The British thrusts were carried out by three complete army corps, in the rear of which two additional divisions were kept in reserve for strategic expansion of the operation on breaking through. In an army order issued by the Germans the Beaumont Farm was mentioned as one of the objects of the attack.

The British Plan.

This proves that the enemy planned to carry his attacks to the depth of 4½ kilometers (four miles), while in reality the extreme point reached, the tip of the salient triangle, up to the key position barrier, was not more than two kilometers (1¼ miles).

The ground gained remains under threat as long as the British are unable to capture the heights of Serre and Grandcourt. Again and again they moved to the attack against these points, which sufficiently proves the importance they attach to them.

The local success obtained by the British in the angle of the Ancre, at the heaviest cost, does not influence in the least the general situation on the Somme front.

BIGGER DRIVE AHEAD.

General Tenthon Advance Is Counting Rumania.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun from the London Times.

LONDON, Nov. 18.—The military expert of the Times has written an article on the present situation of the great German drive against Rumania. He is not sanguine of a successful defense. The expert says:

"When Von Hindenburg's appointment as chief of the German General Staff was announced it seemed probable that an attack upon Rumania would be launched, and the writer estimated that thirty Austro-German divisions might be collected in Transylvania for the main operation.

"The barrier of the Carpathians and the inferiority of the aircraft of our ally prevent our knowing precisely how many divisions Von Falkenhayn has collected for his assault upon the central passes, the mountain corridors which lead to the Rumanian plain, but there are signs which lead us to believe that already twenty-four divisions of that thirty may have been assembled before the advance became general.

"The outcome of winter in the mountains and the mountainous districts which intervene between the passes and the plain is of good value to the Rumanian and Russian troops defending the frontiers with a tenacity honorable to them. All the same, the enemy's progress at most points on the northern frontier between the Volcan and the Buzen passes shows that he is obviously endeavoring to deploy upon a broad front south of the mountains before he debouches from the lower foothills into the plains.

Question of Counter Stroke.

"No general attack has yet been delivered frontally by the Rumanian reserves. So long as the enemy's columns keep pace with one another and continue to press the Rumanians in every valley of the central front they have all to be opposed in strength, and fewer reserves remain for an effective counter stroke.

"Von Falkenhayn is surely encountering many difficulties. We cannot estimate the importance without knowing the character of the demolitions carried out by the Rumanians on their side of the frontier in Transylvania were properly broken by the Rumanians as they crossed back after their invasion, the concentrating of troops and smashing of heavy guns, ammunition and supplies must present real difficulties.

"It is probably due to these causes as well as to the Rumanian resistance that the enemy is so long in traversing the mountain chain, but he is making progress. Already he has brought heavy guns over the mountains.

"The news is against him, and may delay him, but when the snow freezes there is no certainty that operations will be impracticable, though certainly they will be arduous. We must not count upon winter to arrest the advance, for experiences at the Mazurian marshes and at Krasenau show that worse weather than any encountered in Rumania did not stop either the enemy or the Allies.

Comparison of Strength.

"In the ordinary course we shall hear one day that Von Falkenhayn's columns have begun a general advance. The only thing likely to turn them from their purpose is a successful counter stroke. The Rumanians are in the field in some strength at last, and such Rumanian troops as are relieved and available from duties elsewhere may be used. There is nothing about the relative numbers, so far as known, to cause despair, but the quality of the respective troops and the heavy artillery may turn the scale.

"Meanwhile in the Dobruja, Von Mackensen hoped after capturing the Constanta-Cernavoda line to come to the aid of Von Falkenhayn by threatening the coast. The idea, by crossing the river and invading Rumania proper, when Von Falkenhayn was ready to advance. The arrival of Gen. Sakharoff on the Dobruja front, and not empty handed, disappointed him.

"From the respect with which Von Mackensen is treating the new forces of the Allies on the right bank of the Danube, we judge that those forces are important, and will occupy Von Mackensen's sole attention. There are few Turkish troops on whom he would rely, though he may try to impound some divisions from the southern Bulgarian armies facing Gen. Sarail. The recent defeat of the Turkish army on the right bank of the Danube may make the Bulgarians unwilling to oblige.

"If the Rumanians are in great force in the Dobruja, the right bank of the Danube, the fighting in the Dobruja and on the Macedonian front becomes of importance secondary to the issues which rest upon the shock of the main armies on the Carpathian front.

On Other Fronts.

"On the western front, do what he may, the enemy has not one chance in five of carrying out a successful attack on a grand scale, while on the Russian front, despite the railway facilities, our northern ally is so strong, and soon to be stronger, that he would welcome rather than dread an attack. On the Carao things go ill for the Austrians and promise worse. The Rumanian front remains the theatre where the enemy can best promise himself something important.

"If trench warfare results from his Rumanian plans, Von Hindenburg will be doubly at a disadvantage, for he will disappoint the rising hopes of Germany and find himself tied to a new front and burdened with a greater extension of his already extravagantly long line. The last hope of Germany of gaining further strategic advantages will have vanished.

"The shifts and expedients of the German strategists are various, but they must be limited by the forces of human nature. Von Hindenburg will reply that the stake is great and that he believes with Von Ludendorff that a strong will creates its own destiny. War weary though the troops may be, the front discipline of Prussia still holds firm.

"If the relative strength of the attack and defense does not change on the Transylvanian front, Von Falkenhayn ought not to get through. He must realize that the relative strength is changing every day, and therefore the Rumanian battleground remains of profound interest altogether out of proportion to the numbers engaged. We are deeply concerned as to the outcome."

A. D. Davidson on Overdue List.

LONDON, Nov. 18.—The American steamer A. D. Davidson has been removed from the overdue list. Underwriters refuse to quote rates for reinsurance. The A. D. Davidson left Montreal on October 4 for Havre.

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